

Message Text

SECRET

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20

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-03 EB-03

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 SCI-03 AEC-11 DRC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /077 W
----- 087227

R 280714Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T BOMBAY 1917

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH

SUBJ: PURPORTED SALE OFFER OF URANIUM

REF: A. KATHMANDU 4122; B. NEW DELHI 11370

1. CONGEN HAS NO RELEVANT BACKGROUND ON THIS MATTER OR ON J. C. THAKUR. WE WILL REPORT ANY INFORMATION WHICH MAY COME UP ON THAKUR BUT HESITATE MAKE ANY INQUIRIES AT INDIAN DAE FOR FEAR AROUSING INDIANS' SUSPICIONS.

2. FOR KATHMANDU: CONGEN AND AEC SCI REP CONCUR WITH EMBASSY ON LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS IS A CONFIDENCE GAME, BUT IN HOPES BEING HELPFUL IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAKUR MIGHT APPEAR WITH U-235 MATERIAL, AEC SCI REP OFFERS FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS RAISED REF A PARA 3:

A. EXTERNAL RADIATION OF ONE OR TWO GRAMS OF U-235 MATERIAL DOES NOT REPRESENT A HAZARD AS A SOURCE OF EXTERNAL RADIATION BUT SHOULD NOT BE CARRIED ON ONE'S PERSON. (NOTE: ONE TEASPOONFUL OF WATER WEIGHTS FOUR GRAMS AND URANIUM SALTS ARE AT LEAST THREE TO TEN TIMES HEAVIER THAN WATER.)

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B. MATERIAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS TOXIC AND SHOULD NOT BE
HANDLED WITH BARE HANDS. U-235 IS AN ALPHA EMITTER AND
CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN HANDLING. INGESTION
DEFINITELY UNDESIRABLE. SUGGEST (1) VIAL CONTAINING
MATERIAL NOT BE OPENED; AND (2) VIAL CONTAINING MATERIAL BE
PLACED IN DOUBLE PLASTIC BAG AS FIRST STEP FOR STORAGE/
SHIPMENT.
MCCASKILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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